

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /131 W

----- 120288

R 020823Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4601

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS MUNICH 1740

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: STRAUSS ATTACKS SPD AND OSTPOLITIK

SUMMARY: CSU '73 PARTY CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 28-30 PROVIDED INSIGHTS INTO MANEUVERINGS WITHIN CDU/CSU COALITION AND INTO PROSPECTIVE CSU POSITIONS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUES. STRAUSS ATTACKED BRANDT AND SPD FOR MOVING TOO RAPIDLY WITH OSTPOLITIK, FOR FAILURE TO USE FEDREP BARGAINING CARDS WITH USSR, AND FOR UNDERMINING FUTURE SECURITY OF NATION. END SUMMARY.

1. OPENING CEREMONIES FOUND HELMUT KOHL (CDU PARTY CHAIRMAN), KARL CARSTENS (CDU/CSU FRAKTION CHAIRMAN) AND FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS (CSU PARTY CHAIRMAN) GREETING CONVENTION. ALTHOUGH KOHL CONSIDERED BY MANY PRESENT AS MAN WHO WOULD TAKE CDU/CSU TOO FAR TO LEFT, HE NEVERTHELESS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE APPLAUSE AS HE CAME TO ROSTRUM AND THROUGHOUT HIS SPEECH. KOHL EMPHASIZED CDU/CSU COOPERATION EXCELLENT, SAYING HE, STRAUSS, AND CARSTENS WORKED WELL TOGETHER.

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HOWEVER IN SAYING THIS HE ADDED WITH A TOUCH OF IRONY THAT

THIS ALSO MEANS IN FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM MUST BE KEPT ABOVEBOARD. CARSTENS, WHO WAS NEXT SPEAKER FOCUSED ON DANGERS OF SUBVERSIVE INFLUENCES FROM LEFT. CARSTENS APPLAUDED, BUT AS SPEAKER HE DID NOT ELICIT AS MUCH RESPONSE FROM AUDIENCE AS KOHL.

2. IN WHAT WAS REGARDED BY MANY AS SHREWD POLITICAL MOVE, CARSTENS DID NOT DEPART CONVENTION AFTER FIRST DAY (AS DID KOHL) AND WHEN HE APPREARED SATURDAY AFTERNOON IN PLENARY SESSION ON REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS HE WAS GIVEN AN OVATION. CARSTENS ALSO ATTENDED SATURDAY NIGHT PARTY AT HOFBRAUHAUS WHICH FURTHER ENDEARED HIM TO DELEGATES AND MUCH WAS MADE OF HIS PRESENCE DURING THAT EVENING. STRAUSS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING CONVENTION SINGLED HIM OUT FOR SPECIAL PRAISE.

3. DURING REPORTS OF WORKING COMMITTEES MAIN EMPHASIS WAS ON SUCH ISSUES AS BODENRECHT AND MITBESTIMMUNG. REPORT OF WORKING GROUP ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AROUSED NO DISCUSSION AND WAS SIMPLY ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY. IN CONTRAST TO AIRING GIVEN TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS ON SATURDAY, SUNDAY'S WINDUP SESSION SAW STRAUSS LAUNCH INTO 2-1/2 HOURS OF VERBAL PYRO-TECHNICS LARGELY DEVOTED TO FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND CHARGES OF UNDERMINING OF FEDREP BY THE LEFT.

4. STRAUSS SAID AMONG OTHER THINGS:

A. WEHNER'S REMARKS ON FEDREP PRESSING TOO HARD FOR ITS INTERPRETATION OF BERLIN AGREEMENT WERE NOT OFF-THE-CUFF, BUT CAREFULLY THOUGHT OUT BEFOREHAND. WEHNER AT LEAST HONEST, WHILE REST OF SPD ARE WORKING UNDER THE TABLE TO MAKE ACCOMMODATIONS WITH EAST. AS EX-COMMUNIST, IT INTERESTING TO NOTE, WEHNER FIRST MET WITH HONECKER TO BE "REHABILITATED" BEFORE GOING TO MOSCOW.

B. OSTPOLITIK LEADING FEDREP UP BLIND ALLEY. BRANDT AND SPD HAD HELD HIGH CARDS EARLY IN NEGOTIATIONS AND HAD SIMPLY THROWN THEM AWAY IN RUSH TO REACH ARRANGEMENT ON TWO GERMANIES. "ONE GERMANY" CONCEPT SO BLITHELY DISCARDED BY BRANDT WILL COME BACK TO HAUNT FEDREP. IN FUTURE, GDR WILL BE PUSHING FOR "ONE GERMANY" AND THEN IT WILL BE FOR A UNIFIED SOCIALIST STATE.

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C. HIGH RANKING SPD OFFICIALS HAVE SUPPORTED PLACEMENT OF COMMUNISTS IN GOVERNMENT POSTS AND IN SCHOOLS. SPD NOW ALSO OPENLY SUPPORTS WILDCAT STRIKES.

D. DDR IS SEEKING SEAT ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND IS, WITH USSR SUPPORT, PRESSING ROMANIA ON THIS MATTER. IMAGINE PRACTICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF A GDR ONLY RECENTLY ADMITTED TO UN TAKING SEAT ON SC.

E. NONPROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) HOLDS DANGERS FOR

GERMANY'S FUTURE ENTRANCE INTO A EUROPEAN UNION, SHOULD LATTER'S DEFENSE, AS IS LIKELY, BE BASED ON ATOMIC WEAPONS. LACK OF CLARITY IN PROVISIONS OF TREATY WILL ENABLE RUSSIA TO EXPLOIT ISSUE TO FEDREP'S DISADVANTAGE. CSU HAS NOT YET SAID "YES" OR "NO" TO NPT, BUT WANTS PROVISIONS CLARIFIED.

F. BUNDESTAG IS IN EFFECT ALREADY MOVING TOWARD A PROGRAM OF NEUTRALIZATION OF GERMANY.

G. U.S. IS REDUCING ITS DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO EUROPE. GERMANY MUST LOOK TO PROVIDING GREATER SUPPORT FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE. CSU DOES NOT CARE WHETHER FAILURE TO GO ALONG WITH NPT AND DETENTE WILL IRRITATE THE AMERICANS OR MAKE THE RUSSIANS MAD. IT WILL NOT SELL FUTURE GERMAN SECURITY DOWN RIVER. VALDES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MUNICH01740
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MUNICH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731056/aaaabpfw.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <07-Sep-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRAUSS ATTACKS SPD AND OSTPOLITIK SUMMARY: CSU '73 PARTY CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 28-30 PROVIDED IN-TAGS: PINT, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005